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GETTING AT THE FACTS ABOUT AGRICULTURE

**PROGRAM
BUILDING**



**FARM
COMMUNITY
COUNTY
STATE
NATION**



FARMER DISCUSSION GROUP PAMPHLET

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS**

This pamphlet has been especially prepared for use by discussion groups. It consists almost entirely of questions relating to local, State, national, and international problems. Neither any question nor the form in which any question is asked should be taken as an indication of an official expression or viewpoint of the Department of Agriculture.

Copies of this pamphlet may be obtained free from your State Discussion-group Leader, Extension Service, or State College of Agriculture. Copies may also be obtained free upon a request addressed to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. (The earlier pamphlets in this series were issued by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.) Other pamphlets for discussion-group purposes similarly obtainable are:

SUBJECT-MATTER PAMPHLETS

(Pamphlets DS-1 to DS-8 are out of print)

- DS- 9 Taxes: Who Pays, What For?
- DS-10 Rural Communities: What Do They Need Most?
- DS-11 Soil Conservation: Who Gains By It?
- DS-12 Co-ops: How Far Can They Go?
- DS-13 Farm Finance: What Is a Sound System?
- DS-15 Reciprocal Trade Agreements: Hurting or Helping the Country?
- DS-16 Farm Security: How Can Tenants Find It?
- DS-17 The National Agricultural Program. What About Cotton?
- DS-18 The National Agricultural Program. What About Wheat?

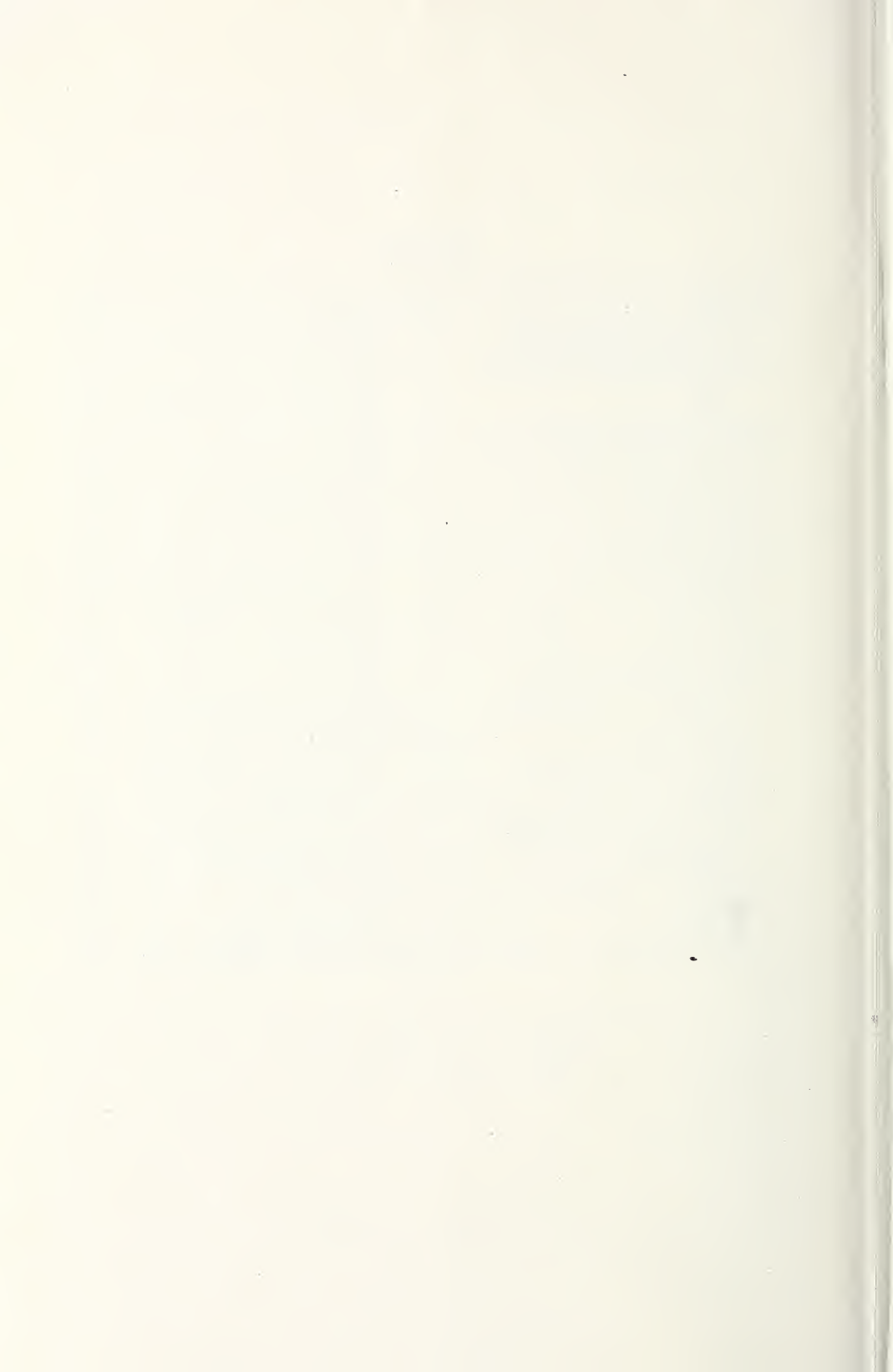
LEAFLETS ON THE DISCUSSION METHOD

- DN-1 Suggestions for Discussion Group Members
- DN-2 Suggestions for Group Discussion Leaders

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
In cooperation with the Extension Service

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GETTING AT THE FACTS ABOUT AGRICULTURE

PROGRAM BUILDING

Building a program for agriculture in the United States includes not only land use planning for the farms but also rural-life planning for the 6 million families that live on these farms.

This pamphlet aims to assist with the discussion of all sorts of economic and social problems that enter into program building for agriculture.

Farmers are being called upon more and more to take part in planning local and national programs for agriculture. They cannot do their part well unless they have a good understanding of the problems involved. One way of increasing that understanding is for a group of neighbors to get together to study the situation and talk things over.

Discussion by farmers of the fundamental problems of agriculture will lead to study of the relationship between agriculture, industry, and government. This broader study is essential if farm people are to give direction and support to sound agricultural programs. Although we are constantly faced with programs to meet immediate needs, the making of broader plans for the future is even more important. In the long run, production from the land is the all-important thing. Let us build programs now that will provide for conservation of the land not only for those of us who are now living but more especially for our children in the generations to come

The following list of national farm programs, although

not complete, indicates the scope and wide application of existing programs:

- Agricultural conservation programs
- The ever-normal granary program
 - Stabilization of crop acreages
 - Commodity loans
 - Marketing quotas
 - Crop insurance
 - Surplus purchases for relief purposes
 - Marketing agreements
 - Development of new domestic and foreign markets
- The sugar program
- The rehabilitation program
- The farm-tenancy program
- Direct relief to farmers
- Soil conservation operations
 - Erosion-control demonstrations
 - Cooperation with soil conservation districts
- Purchase and development of submarginal lands
- Water Facilities program for the West
- The public forests
- Aids to commercial forest owners
- Farm-forestry programs
- Land treatment for flood control
- Wildlife refuges
- Road building and land use
- Farm credit program
 - Refinancing of farm indebtedness
 - Farm-purchase loans
 - Credit for farmers' cooperatives
 - Production credit loans
 - Budget loans

The character of most of the programs in this list and their aims are given briefly in the publication called *Planning a Permanent Agriculture*.¹ The force that brought most of these programs into being was the realization by farmers and farm leaders, that agricultural land was being lost through erosion; that soil fertility was being depleted through unscientific cropping; that surplus farm products were contributing very greatly to low farm prices; that forests and range lands were being denuded

¹ U. S. Department of Agriculture. *Planning for a permanent agriculture*. U. S. Dept. Agr. Misc. Pub. 351, 71 pp. 1939.

through wasteful methods of logging and overgrazing; that the percentage of farm land operated by tenants and sharecroppers was large; and that an increasing number of rural people were dependent upon relief.

Our present national farm programs affect directly or indirectly practically every farm and farm family in this country. Although not all of these national farm programs are applicable to every farm, each farmer will find that some of them affect his own farm.

Use of this pamphlet by farm-discussion groups will direct their thinking toward broad agricultural problems which land use planning is designed to meet and will be an excellent preparation for members of these groups who may be selected to serve on community or county land use planning committees. Furthermore, its use by discussion groups after land use planning work has been started will greatly assist in maintaining interest in such planning work.

For discussion purposes, then, the subject of program building and planning for agriculture is approached from the viewpoint (1) of the farm, (2) of the community, (3) of the county, (4) of the State, and (5) of the Nation. The discussion outlines that follow begin with individual farms.

Groups that intend to use this discussion pamphlet will find it helpful to—

(a) Select those questions that are applicable to their own respective communities, counties, or States.

(b) Add other questions or topics of particular interest and concern to them.

(c) Appoint committees to assemble factual material bearing on the questions to be considered.

Suggested sources of information are—

(1) State agricultural colleges, extension services, and experiment stations—especially the county agricultural agents.

(2) County and State offices.

(3) Vocational teachers in high schools.

(4) United States Department of Agriculture.

(5) County and State land use planning committees.

The Farm



**AS A
HOME**



**AS A
BUSINESS**

HOW ABOUT

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

HEALTH

CROP PRODUCTION

EDUCATION

**IMPROVEMENTS
AND EQUIPMENT**

**FARM CAPITAL
HOME PLANNING**

RECREATION

SOIL MAINTENANCE

LAND USE

HORSE AND MAN LABOR

DISCUSSION OUTLINE—THE FARM

Pick out some of the topics and questions you would like to talk over with your neighbors:

CROP PRODUCTION PLANNING.

1. Kinds of crops and crop yields.

(a) Why do you grow the crops that you have on your farm? Have any crops been added to, or have any crops been dropped from your farm in recent years? If so, why?

(b) Are the yields per acre of the principal crops on your farm increasing or decreasing? How do you know? Why?

2. Increasing and maintaining crop yields.

(a) Can crop yields be increased or maintained on your farm by—

Crop rotations

Commercial fertilizers

Barnyard manure

Control of noxious weeds

Control of insect pests or plant diseases

Better seed

Prevention of soil erosion

Conservation of moisture

Drainage

Which of these methods should be employed?

Why? Which ones will pay best?

(b) Why would it be profitable or unprofitable to increase crop yields on your farm?

(c) Have crop yields increased or decreased on your farm as a result of the Agricultural Adjustment program or any other farm program? If so, why?

(d) What changes, if any, have been made in your farm in the acreage of various crops being grown as a result of national farm programs? Are any changes bringing about a better balanced and more permanent type of farming?

SOIL MAINTENANCE PLANNING.

1. On how many acres of your farm is the soil washing away? What could be done about it?
2. Is any of your farm blowing away? What could be done about it?
3. Is the loss of fertility through leaching unnecessarily high? What could be done to prevent it?
4. Has the Agricultural Adjustment program, the Soil Conservation Service program or any other farm program helped you to reduce soil losses? How?

PLANNING LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION.

1. Why do you keep livestock on your farm?
2. How do you decide on the kind and number of livestock to raise? Do you decide on the basis of food for the family? Work animals for the farm? Feed available? Present prices for livestock or livestock products? Estimated future prices of livestock or livestock products? Need for manure? Fences and buildings? What the neighbors raise? Providing labor for the family?
3. What about livestock diseases—has any national farm program helped you to control them on your farm or ranch?
4. Has the Agricultural Adjustment program, the range program, forestry programs, or other national programs affected the kind or number of livestock on your farm or ranch? How?

HORSE AND MAN LABOR.

1. How evenly are your man- and horse-labor requirements distributed throughout the years? Can you improve the distribution?
2. Are you replacing man and horse labor by machinery? Why? What happens to men who are displaced by machinery?
3. Where can farm boys find work if little or no hired labor is needed on farms?
4. Is there a labor problem in farm homes? How should it be handled?

5. Has any national farm program favorably or unfavorably affected your farm-labor problem? How?

FARM IMPROVEMENTS AND EQUIPMENT.

1. What advantages or disadvantages do you see in displacing horses with tractors on your farm?

2. Do labor-saving devices enable you to farm more land, or to farm more intensively, or hire less labor, or to have more leisure? On what basis do you decide on the purchase of new machinery? How much have you invested in new machinery and equipment within the last 10 years? Has this been too much? Why? Why not?

3. How do you decide whether it is profitable to erect farm buildings, put up fences, or dig ditches on your farm?

4. What factors should be considered in deciding on the location of a new farm building on your farm?

5. What percentage of the value of your farm is in buildings? Is this too high? Too low? Why?

FARM CAPITAL.

1. In what way, if at all, would additional capital increase your net farm income? Can you get additional capital from private lending agencies? From Government agencies? Which agency do you favor? Why?

2. If you have a mortgage on your land, have you ever considered refinancing at a lower rate of interest? What rate of interest are you paying? What rate of interest is being charged by the Farm Credit Administration for loans on land? Production credit loans? Budget loans?

3. Which is the more satisfactory method of buying machinery—installment buying or borrowing the money and paying cash? Why? What method do you follow and why?

4. If "loan sharks" are operating in your community, what are the terms and rates of interest that you would have to accept in order to get a loan from them?

LAND USE.

1. What percentage of your farm is in crops?

2. What income do you get from the land not in crops?

3. How many acres do you have in roads, lanes, fence rows, headlands, unused corners, idle fields, and woodland? Is the percentage too high?

4. Is there any land on your farm that should be permanently taken out of crop production? Why? Can you get some income from this land as pasture? As woodland?

5. What national farm programs, if any, have caused land on your farm to be used or unused? Has this change been profitable? Why?

HOME PLANNING.

1. What home conveniences are necessary for health; for comfort? Does your home have them?

2. Could the house be made more attractive on the inside; on the outside? What good comes from attractive homes? From attractive home surroundings—lawns, shrubbery, flower gardens? What are we living for?

HEALTH.

1. Is your family as healthy as those of your neighbors? Of nearby town families?

2. When you have sickness in the family, do you go to the doctor, or does he come to you? Have you a good hospital near you?

3. How much is your doctor bill per year? Is this too much? Is it little in comparison with the services you receive, or in comparison with the other expenses of your family?

4. What should a healthful diet include? Do you think that better food, or more of it, especially fresh fruits and vegetables, might improve the health of your family? Reduce your doctor and dentist bills? Have you ever talked with a Home Demonstration agent or a public nurse about an adequate diet for the family?

5. What can be grown in your vegetable garden that is needed for a healthful and appetizing diet? Do you grow these vegetables, do you buy them or do you do without them?

6. How many quarts of milk, pounds of butter, and doz-

ens of eggs, per week, should your family use for a healthful diet? Do you use this quantity? If not, why? Estimate in dollars and cents what it would cost to buy the vegetables, fruits, milk, butter, and eggs, that should be used in your home. Is this quantity now produced on your farm and used in your home?

RECREATION.

1. Why should farm boys and girls have time for recreation? Do they have it?

2. Why not have a place to pitch horseshoes, a tennis court for the young people, a swing and a sand box for the children on your farm?

3. Why not have indoor games for winter and for rainy days?

4. Why not one good magazine in each farm home in addition to a farm paper? Is the radio increasing or decreasing the interest in other music and musical instruments in your home?

EDUCATION.

1. How many months of schooling do your children have each year? Is this enough? How does this compare with the 1938 national average of 166 days for rural schools?

2. What about the quality of the teaching? Do you pay your local teachers enough to get a good quality of teaching?

3. What about the subjects your children study? Do they develop a good attitude toward farm life, or do they make your children dissatisfied with the farm?

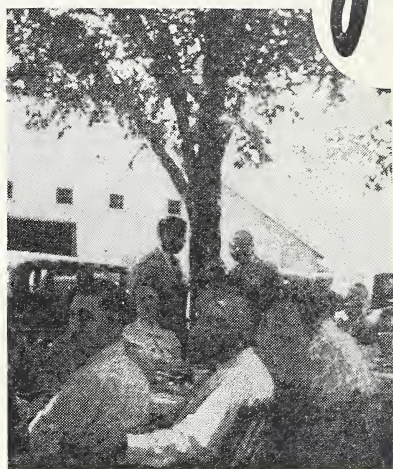
4. Should farmers plan to send their children to high school? To college? Why or why not?

5. Do you and your wife manage to hear as much good music as you want to hear? See enough good plays? Good pictures? Do you depend on local talent for music and plays? The radio? Can you afford to buy all the books and magazines you can read? How about other members of the family?

The Community



**ECONOMIC
COOPERATION**



**SOCIAL
COOPERATION**

HOW ABOUT

ROADS
•
CHURCHES
•
COMMUNITY
IMPROVEMENT
•
ELECTRIC POWER
•
COOPERATIVE
BUYING AND
SELLING
•

WEEDS
•
SCHOOLS
•
FARM LEASES
•
SOCIAL ACTIVITY
•
INSECT PESTS AND
PLANT DISEASES
•
OTHER COMMUNITY
PROBLEMS
•

DISCUSSION OUTLINE—THE COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT.

1. (a) Have you a community land use planning committee? If so, what are its activities? What assistance should a community land use planning committee reasonably expect from a farm community club, a local of a national farm organization, or some other farm group? Have you such an organization in your community that will render this assistance?

(b) What are the features of a good land use planning committee? How large should it be? How much time can farm men and women afford to give to community land use planning activities? What can they gain from such activities? How can interest in land use planning programs be best maintained? By group discussions? By talks of specialists? By land use planning publications?

2. How about community improvement and beautification by:

- (a) Cutting roadside weeds and bushes.
- (b) Straightening up and painting mail boxes.
- (c) Planting one variety of flowers along the roadside.
- (d) Adopting a community name.
- (e) Elimination of roadside billboards and unsightly advertising on farm buildings and fences?

COOPERATIVE BUYING AND SELLING.

1. Does cooperative buying by the farmers of a community save them money? Does it insure a better quality of goods purchased? Do cooperative oil stations and cooperative stores provide accurate information on the quality of the products sold?

2. Does cooperative buying and the use of mail-order houses keep country towns from prospering? Should farmers consider the welfare of country-town businessmen? Is it advantageous to farmers to have thriving

country towns? What essential services do the businessmen of country towns render to farmers?

3. Does the community give support to a cooperative elevator, a cooperative creamery, a cooperative live-stock shipping association? Do these cooperatives give more satisfactory service than their private competitors? How could they better serve your needs? Have any cooperative associations failed in your community? If so, why? What are advantages or disadvantages of selling through cooperative associations?

4. Why do you think your community would or would not support a cooperative refrigeration plant for the storage of fresh meat throughout the year? Would you prefer to hire space in a privately owned plant?

5. Can some commodities be more satisfactorily handled by cooperative associations and others by private business concerns? If so, what should cooperative associations handle? Does a cooperative buying association contribute any less or any more to the welfare of the community than does a private business handling the same volume of business?

6. Do farmers' cooperative buying and selling organizations add to the community spirit? Why do you want community spirit?

ELECTRIC POWER.

1. Should farmers have electricity in their farm houses and farm buildings? Would this reduce lighting and power costs? Would it prevent fires? Save the eyesight of the family? Lighten household labor? Provide refrigeration and better food? Keep farm young people better satisfied with farm life?

2. How does the yearly cost for electricity on the farms in your community compare with the cost of the light and power that it displaced? In how many years will the savings from the use of electricity pay for the first cost of installing electricity and the electrical appliances and equipment?

3. Is your community served by an electric power line?

Is it a farmers' cooperative enterprise? Do you think the rates are at the right level?

4. Do you favor or oppose farm groups borrowing money from the Rural Electrification Administration to erect electric power lines? Why? What are the advantages or disadvantages of the Government operating in the electric-power field?

OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICES.

1. Do you have satisfactory telephone service? If not, what could the community do to improve it or get service at a lower cost? What are the advantages or disadvantages of farmers' cooperative telephone companies?

2. Do you have fire protection? If not, what could the community do to obtain it? Do other communities have it in your county? In your State?

3. Do farm families in your community have library service? If not, do you want it? What could you do to get it? Do other rural communities have it in your county? In your State?

4. Is group medical service available in your community? If not, would the farmers in your community favor a cooperative organization to provide medical and hospital service? How much could a family afford to pay a year for such service?

ROADS.

1. The road situation in the community—is it satisfactory? Does the community have any responsibility for the building or maintenance of its roads?

2. If the road situation is unsatisfactory, what facts could your community present to the county in support of a request for new roads or better maintenance of present roads?

3. Do you have too many roads? Primary? Secondary?

FARM LEASES.

1. Should farm rentals be on a cash basis? On a share-crop basis? On a share-crop and livestock basis? Under

what conditions are these methods favorable to the land owner? To the tenant? What provisions should a good farm lease include in your community? For how many years should it run? Should the community be concerned with leasing methods and terms? Why, or why not? Are the flexible farm lease and the flexible livestock-share lease applicable in your area? (Copies of these leases and supplementary material may be obtained from the county agricultural agent, the State agricultural college, or the United States Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C.)

2. What is the percentage of rented land in your community? If this percentage has been increasing in recent years, how do you account for it? Is the percentage of rented land too high?

3. Are rented lands and farms a detriment to the community? If so, why? What would you propose to reduce the number of rented farms?

4. What effect, if any, have national agricultural programs had in your community on the number of tenants or the kind of leases?

5. Are tenant farmers being displaced in your community through sale of farms? By day laborers? Does the community have a responsibility to displaced tenants? To farm laborers?

INSECT PESTS AND LIVESTOCK DISEASES.

1. What insect pests have you which are or could be controlled through organized community effort?

2. Have there been outbreaks of any disease of cattle, horses, sheep, or hogs that could be controlled by community action?

3. What should the community do to prevent or control these pests or diseases?

WEEDS.

1. Are noxious weeds spreading? Can they be controlled? What could the community do?

2. What are the weed laws for your State? Are weed-control districts authorized?

3. Does the community have any moral or legal responsibility as to enforcement of weed laws?

4. Have soil-building-practice payments for control of weeds under the Agricultural Adjustment Act been helpful in your community?

CHURCHES.

1. Does your community have more or fewer churches than are needed? How do you arrive at your conclusion?

2. What do you think of consolidation of the rural churches in a community if there are too many to be well supported?

3. What can churches contribute to program planning for agriculture? Can the church basement or parish hall be used as a center for farmer discussion groups?

SCHOOLS.

1. In what ways are one-room schools better than and in what ways not so good as the consolidated schools? Which costs more for each pupil?

2. Why are one-room country schools being supplanted by consolidated schools? Is this movement a sound one? What are your objections, if any?

3. What should your community do to improve its school, whether one-room or consolidated?

4. Should hot lunches be provided for your school children? Is this a community problem?

5. Is there an active Parent-Teachers Association in your school? If there is one, what does it aim to accomplish and what success is it having?

6. What should the schools offer, if anything, to boys and girls who cannot attend high school? What should the schools offer to adults?

7. Are you satisfied with the studies offered in your high school? If not, what is wrong? Do they prepare children for life on the farm or for entrance into institutions of higher learning? Should they do both?

8. Is or is not participation by high-school students in dramatic clubs, literary societies, social gatherings, and in

organized sports such as basketball and football a valuable part of their education?

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

1. Does the community need a new community building or should it improve the one in use? Have you a good meeting place for small groups? For large groups?

2. Does the community need a park for picnics, ball games, and other recreational activities?

3. Does your community have musical or dramatic talent? Are you making use of your local musical talent in a band or an orchestra? Why not present a play? A pageant?

4. Does your community have an organization or organizations which hold meetings that interest everyone in the community? If not, should this community set up an organization and plan a program of community activities?

5. What responsibility should your community take for its needy families? Have you met this responsibility? Do they need work which you can provide? Do you regard all assistance for the needy entirely a county undertaking?

The County



COURT HOUSE

HOW ABOUT

ROADS AND DITCHES

CLUBS

DISEASE CONTROL

TAXATION

FARM TENANCY

LAND USES

HEALTH

LAW ENFORCEMENT

FAIRS

RELIEF FOR THE NEEDY

DISCUSSION OUTLINE—THE COUNTY

TAXATION.

1. What are the annual county expenditures in your county and how much of the total amount do farmers pay?

2. How much of the county tax levy is for schools? For relief? For roads? For the State?

3. What are other important items in your county tax levy?

4. What county expenditures, if any, are directly for the benefit of agriculture?

5. How could the county be more helpful to agriculture—would it mean additional costs and could higher taxes be justified?

6. If you believe that taxes on farm property are too high, do you favor increasing taxes on other property or reducing the expenditures? If the latter, which ones and how much? How much reduction would this make in the taxes on your farm?

7. What has the township contributed to economy and efficiency in local government?

8. Would the elimination of townships reduce taxation costs? Would it do away with unnecessary government? Do you think the county assessor system—one county assessor instead of one in each township—would give a fairer valuation of property?

9. Would the consolidation of your county with one or more other counties reduce the number of county officials and reduce the tax burden? Why do you favor or oppose larger county units?

10. How could annual town (township) meetings be used to promote better and more democratic government? What percentage of the voters in your township are familiar with township and county government problems?

RELIEF FOR THE NEEDY.

1. Is the relief problem being wisely handled in your county? Could you suggest better methods? How many

families are on relief in your county? How many of these are on farms? Who provides the relief funds? What part of the relief funds are provided by the township? The county? The State? The federal government? What is the yearly amount furnished by each?

2. Do you favor the use of State and federal funds for assisting the aged? The blind? The sick? Dependent children? Dependent mothers? Is such assistance being given in your county? Does this reduce the county relief load?

3. What changes, if any, would you recommend in the Rehabilitation Program for Farmers that is administered by the Farm Security Administration?

4. What is a fair way of deciding who should or who should not be granted relief? How much relief should be given?

LAND USES.

1. What uses, if any, are being made of land in your county which—

(a) Cause a loss of land or loss of soil fertility?

(b) Bring about undesirably low farm incomes and depressed standards of living?

(c) Cause unhealthful living conditions?

(d) Result in inefficient use of public funds?

(e) Are conducive to undesirable community life and institutions?

What steps for improvement should be taken relative to (a), (b), (c), (d), or (e)?

2. Are there any real-estate promotion schemes in your county? If so, are these beneficial or detrimental to the county? To individual communities? Has the county any authority over them even if the promotion schemes are undesirable?

3. If you have tracts of unused land in your county, can they not be used for pasture? For woodland? For game preserves? For parks? Should this land remain unused?

4. In various counties the use of the land is being mapped and classified by community and county land use

planning committees assisted by the County Agricultural Agent and local representatives of local, state, and national agricultural agencies. This is the first step in a broad cooperative undertaking sponsored by the State Experiment Stations, State Agricultural Extension Service, and the United States Department of Agriculture. The undertaking aims to aid in coordinating local and governmental agricultural activities and in assisting farmers and public agencies in working out programs for a more profitable and satisfactory agriculture. This agricultural planning is called county land use planning.

(Reference: County Land Use Planning Series Pamphlets prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture and available through the county agent or State Agricultural Extension Service.)

If it appears from a discussion of points raised in connection with Question No. 1 above, that improper use of land is a basic cause of unsatisfactory farm conditions, what information about the use of the land in your county would be helpful to you in working out plans for building a long-time agricultural program? What should your long-time agricultural program (a county land use planning program) include to overcome the unsatisfactory conditions?

5. Some people claim that program planning by local groups is useless because farmers' problems are national and international in character. Do you agree with this? What reasons would you give for your judgment? Will national programs grow out of the many community and county programs?

FARM TENANCY AND TENURE.

1. What farm-tenancy problems, if any, do you have which are county-wide?

2. What recommendations concerning tenancy problems should be made to your County Agricultural Planning Committee? Can your county control leasing agreements, or does this have to be done by your State?

3. If there is idle cropland in your community or county, what should be done with it? Should it be put into cultivation? Into forests? Into pastures? Into parks?

4. How would you prevent owners of any land that is unsuited for crops, from putting it into crops? Would you favor permanent ownership of such land by the county or the State? What change, if any, would county or State ownership of such land have on your taxes? Schools? Roads? Farm life?

5. A number of States have laws providing for the establishment of soil conservation districts, and land use regulations for the districts, when voted by the farmers of the districts. Do you favor or oppose this method of controlling the use of agricultural land?

LAW ENFORCEMENT.

1. What laws, if any, that are of particular concern to farmers are not satisfactorily enforced by county officials? What action could a community or county farm organization take to improve law enforcement?

2. What new State laws do the farmers need in your State? What State laws should be repealed? Why? What interests support these laws which do not meet with your approval?

3. Is there a county official whose duty it is to investigate and prosecute promoters who make farmers their particular victims? If there is none, should there be such an official?

FAIRS.

1. What purposes does your county fair serve?

2. In what way could agricultural fairs be planned to be of greater benefit to farmers?

CLUBS.

1. How could you help the boys and girls of your county to get greater benefits from 4-H Clubs?

2. What do farm women's clubs organized by the agricultural extension service contribute to the improvement of farms and farm homes?

3. Is there a need for magazine and book clubs to circulate magazines and books? Would each farm family in your community subscribe to a book or magazine for a local club or could they be obtained from a State or county-supported circulating library?

DISEASE CONTROL.

1. What insect pests and what plant and animal diseases cause substantial losses in your county?
2. What aid can the county obtain from State or Federal sources for controlling destructive pests and diseases?
3. Are farmers getting the full amount of aid that is available from county, State, or Federal sources for control of pests and diseases?

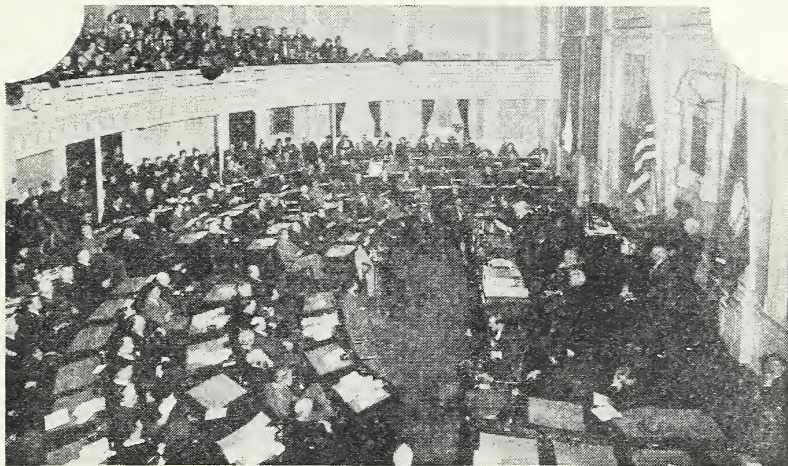
ROADS AND DITCHES.

1. What is your county road program? What percentage of county road expenditures should be for secondary roads rather than for main highways?
2. How can the community assist in the improvement and maintenance of county roads and ditches?
3. Who benefits most from your hard-surfaced roads—county or city people? Who pays for the first cost of your hard-surfaced roads? Who pays for the maintenance of these roads?
4. Have you any dangerous railway grade crossings? What steps could the community and the county take to have them eliminated?

HEALTH.

1. Are medical and hospitalization services available to farmers at a cost they can afford? If not, would a county health association to provide medical service and hospitalization on a cooperative basis meet the need? Is this a community rather than a county problem?

The State



LEGISLATIVE SCENE

HOW ABOUT

EDUCATION

STATE FORESTS

WILDLIFE REFUGES

PURE SEED CONTROL

AGRICULTURAL ZONING

MARKETING FARM PRODUCTS

INTERSTATE TRADE BARRIERS

CONTROL OF ANIMAL DISEASES

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

STATE AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM

DISCUSSION OUTLINE—THE STATE

LAND CONSERVATION.

1. Various State laws provide for—
 - (a) Zoning land for agriculture
 - (b) Soil conservation districts
 - (c) State forests
 - (d) Wildlife refuges
 - (e) Cooperative grazing districts
 - (f) Forest fire protection

What laws has your State passed along these or similar lines? What has been accomplished by these laws?

2. Why would you favor or oppose the zoning of land for agricultural purposes, the establishment of State forests, or wildlife refuges?

3. What school and taxation problems would be caused by taking agricultural land out of use through the establishment of publicly owned forests or the prevention of the use of land for agricultural purposes through application of zoning laws?

MARKETING FARM PRODUCTS.

1. Under what State laws may farmer associations be organized for the cooperative selling of farm products, for the cooperative buying of farm supplies, or for other cooperative activities?

2. For what farm products, if any, has your State established standards of quality which must be met before the products can be marketed within the State? Outside the State? What are the purposes of such laws? What are their specific provisions?

CONTROL OF ANIMAL DISEASES.

1. Does your State have laws providing for the control of animal diseases? What are the specific provisions of such laws?

2. What could your State do to prevent the spread of diseases of farm animals, and would this be of benefit to farmers?

3. What does the State do to prevent hydrophobia?

SEED CONTROL.

1. In what way does your State prevent the sale of poor seed or the sale of diseased nursery stock? How does the Federal Seed Act passed by Congress in 1939 benefit your State? What are some of its specific provisions? Will it insure a better quality of the seed you purchase?

INTERSTATE TRADE BARRIERS.

1. Do you think that State laws which prevent the sale of milk and cream shipped in from another State are beneficial to dairy farmers? To consumers?

2. Do the laws and regulations of your State place any difficulties in the way of clean, wholesome milk or cream (or other dairy products) coming in from other States to be sold in the markets of your State? Does your State require all dairy farms from which milk is shipped into your State to be inspected by inspectors from your State? Or does it accept the certification of dairy farms by the authorities in the States where the farms are located? What do you think of your State's requirements along these lines?

3. Do you approve of the laws governing the sale of oleomargarine in your State? Are the laws of your State so phrased as to warn consumers as to what they are buying, or do they practically prevent the sale of oleomargarine? (See Barriers to Internal Trade in Farm Products. A special report, issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, 1939.)

4. Do high license fees for trucks in other States increase the cost of marketing any of your farm products? Does your State or do adjacent States have laws or regulations which interfere with the free movement of agricultural products across State lines? On what grounds do you favor or oppose the free trucking movement of agricultural products across State lines?

5. Do you think free trade within the United States ought

to be maintained? Or is it more important that producers in one State be protected from producers in another State?

EDUCATION.

1. What changes, if any, would you recommend in your State Agricultural College that would make it more worthwhile for students to enroll in agriculture and home economics?

2. What benefits have the farmers of your State received from the activities of your Agricultural Experiment Station?

3. Are you in favor of the State increasing or decreasing the appropriations for the Agricultural Extension Service, and why? What new or expanded activities would you like to have the Agricultural Extension Service take up?

4. Do you favor or oppose more State funds for local schools teaching agriculture and more control of these schools by State offices? Why? Are enough schools teaching agriculture?

STATE AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM.

1. Briefly summarizing the various activities carried on by your State for the benefit of farmers, consider the question: Do these constitute a State program for agriculture? Should there be a State agricultural program?

2. Is any one of the State agricultural activities a duplication of, or in conflict with, a national farm program? If so, what recommendation should be made if you were planning a comprehensive local and State agricultural program?

3. Have you a State Planning Board? Have you seen any of its reports?

4. Do you have a State department of agriculture? If so, what services does the department offer? What use do you make of these services?

The Nation



NATIONAL CAPITOL

HOW ABOUT

FARM TENANCY

FARM POPULATION

●
FARM INDEBTEDNESS

●
INTERNATIONAL TRADE

●
PRICES AND FARM INCOME

●
**SURPLUS FARM PRODUCTS AND
THE EVER-NORMAL GRANARY**

●
**RELATION BETWEEN
AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY**

●
AGRICULTURE AS A BASIC INDUSTRY

DISCUSSION OUTLINE—THE NATION

AGRICULTURE—IS IT BASIC?

1. Is agriculture the basic industry in the United States, on which all other industries depend, or are agriculture and other industries dependent on each other?

(a) Do farm people in the United States contribute more to stability of government than urban people? Why or why not?

2. Is national farm legislation desirable or necessary in order (1) to provide an adequate supply of food and fiber, (2) to provide a healthy and educated population for maintaining the cities, (3) to furnish leaders in government, industry, and education, (4) to enable the individualistic and unorganized farmers to compete with other groups in society for a fair share of the national income, (5) to make amends to the farmer for possible special benefits and subsidies received by other parts of the population in the past, (6) to foster and preserve democracy in the United States?

3. What is your understanding of democracy? Do farm people have a special responsibility for defending democracy? Do farm people, compared with other groups in society, have a special opportunity to support democracy? Why, or why not?

PRODUCTION IN AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

1. What is the effect of a high or low level of industrial production on the demand for agricultural products? What farm products are affected most—crops for domestic use or for international trade? Why?

2. How does industry adjust production to demand? How do farmers attempt to do this? By shifting to other crops? By reducing acreage? By increasing acreage? What is the effect of high or low industrial production on industrial labor? Farm labor? Do idle laborers in the city mean idle land in farms?

PRICES AND FARM INCOME.

1. From a long-time viewpoint, which of the following offer the farmers the greatest possibility of getting an equitable share of the national income and why:

(a) Parity prices for basic farm products through crop-acreage control, marketing agreements, and subsidy payments?

(b) Price fixing by national legislation for that portion of basic farm products that is required for domestic use?

(c) Cooperative marketing of farm products and cooperative production or purchase of farm equipment and supplies?

(d) Reduction in the price of commodities bought by farmers? By lowering the tariff? By elimination of private monopoly prices? By restoration of free competition?

2. Do high prices for farm products always mean a high income for your own farm? For the farmers of the country as a whole?

(a) What causes high farm prices—short crops in the United States or in foreign countries? Speculation? Unusual foreign demands? Legislation? Cheap money?

(b) When prices of farm products are high, do the prices of manufactured products that farmers buy rise? Fall? Remain unchanged? What causes high prices of manufactured products: Scarcity of goods? Monopoly prices? High industrial wages? High taxes paid by industry? High cost of raw material? Cheap money?

3. Does the method that you favor for obtaining an equitable share of the national income for agriculture imply less regimentation and more freedom for the individual farmer, or more laws and more governmental restrictions? Will the method you favor be acceptable to nonagricultural consumers? Why?

4. Should the purpose of agricultural price and income

legislation be diversion of income to farmers from other groups of people or the raising of the income of all groups, or both? What does parity income mean to you as a farmer?

SURPLUS FARM PRODUCTS.

1. Have the acreage-stabilization programs of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration reduced the production of wheat, of corn, of cotton, of rice, of tobacco, on participating farms in your community? Or have the reduced acreages been offset by increased yield per acre on these farms? Or by increased acreage on nonparticipating farms? How do your own observations compare with the results reported for the country as a whole?

2. If crop-acreage-control payments were discontinued, to what extent would the farmers whom you know keep down the acreage of basic crops when the Government might so recommend?

3. Do the farmers of the United States raise more food and fiber than we can consume in the United States? What happened to the surplus, years ago? More recently?

4. How do you think the problem of surplus agricultural production will be solved in the future? Will it be by—

(a) The ever-normal granary including the continuation of payments for crop-acreage stabilization, commodity loans, marketing quotas, crop insurance, and purchase of surplus agricultural products for (1) distribution to the needy and unemployed or (2) diversion to alternative uses at lower prices?

(b) Enforced limitation of acreage by federal law?

(c) Increased use of farm products for industrial purposes?

(d) Low prices that will force marginal farms out of use?

(e) Increased use of farm products for feed and food in the United States?

(f) Increased sale of farm products to foreign countries in exchange for increased purchases of manufactured goods and raw materials from them?

5. What will the solution of the surplus agricultural production problem which you consider most probable, do to your farm? To the farms in your community?

FARM INDEBTEDNESS.

1. What rate of interest are farmers paying?

(a) On land-mortgage loans?

(b) On short-time loans?

What rate of interest is charged for loans to operate business enterprises other than farming?

How do you account for the difference, if any, in the rate of interest on short-time loans to farmers and to other businessmen?

Should a farmer take out a mortgage on his farm and agree to pay it off in less than 5 years? Or 20 years?

2. Should the people as a whole be more interested in helping farmers who are in debt than other businessmen who are in debt? Why? Why do you favor or oppose governmental farm lending agencies, or the scaling down of farm debts through the assistance of governmental agencies or local committees? Should we have State moratoriums on farm foreclosures?

3. What farm-indebtedness problems have been solved or improved by the Farm Credit Administration? By the Rehabilitation Program of the Farm Security Administration? What farm indebtedness problems remain?

4. What do you think of the collection policies of the Federal credit agencies? Of the State agencies? Of private lending agencies and corporations? What of the deficiency judgment? Is it justifiable and necessary for a sound credit system?

FARM TENANCY.

1. From your experience or observation, what are the disadvantages of farm tenancy, either cash or crop-share, as it affects: (a) the farm tenant, (b) the farm, and (c) the community? To what extent would these disadvantages disappear if the leased farms were sold to the farmers who are now tenants?

2. Do you believe the increasing percentage of farm tenancy and percentage of farm land operated by tenants are endangering the welfare of the nation? Why or why not? From your own observation is farm tenancy increasing?

3. To what extent could the disadvantages of tenancy be overcome if the land owner would give the tenant a long-term lease and reimburse him at the time he moves away from the farm for the improvements he has made?

4. What about a long-term lease, in which the cash rent would move up or down with the price level of farm products? With net farm income?

5. What other possible solutions are there to the tenancy problems in your area?

6. What are the unsatisfactory conditions arising from the sharecropper system of farming? From the agricultural-laborer system? What could be done to improve these conditions?

FARM POPULATION.

1. There are about 700,000 farm boys and girls reaching maturity each year; about one-half of this number are needed to replace the farm men and women that are dying or leaving farms. How many of the other half can find places on home farms or on farms in their communities? If there are no farms for them, do we need more farms, but smaller farms? Or should they seek employment in towns and cities?

2. Are farms in your community growing larger or smaller? Why? Are farm-labor requirements growing larger or smaller per farm? Why? What are the effects, on farm population of these changes in size of farms or in farm-labor requirements?

3. Are the farm families, or is the number of farm children in your community, growing smaller or larger? Why? What effect is this having on schools? On local government? On taxes? Does the migration of farm boys and girls to cities and towns make the rural communities they leave richer or poorer? How do you arrive at your conclusions?

4. Should surplus farm population move to industrial centers, or should industries move to rural areas and provide employment for families on small tracts of land where food can be raised and living costs are low?

5. Where and how are farm boys and girls going to find places to make a livelihood? What could or should the National Government do for them?

6. **A challenge**—can you as a community or a county devise plans for a cooperative enterprise that will provide interesting work in your own immediate community for the growing generation of boys and girls now in your homes?

INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

1. Why should the United States buy foreign agricultural products that can be raised at home? Would you favor growing agricultural products in the United States that can be bought from foreign countries more cheaply than they can be raised at home? Why?

2. Do you hold that a "favorable" balance of trade with foreign countries is desirable? Why? What does "favorable" mean? Is it beneficial for this country to receive gold rather than imported goods in exchange for goods sold? Why? What benefits are the people of the United States receiving from about two-thirds of the monetary gold supply of the world, which is now stored in the United States?

3. Do you favor or oppose the reciprocal trade agreement method of revising tariff rates? Why? Would you prefer trade agreements in keeping with the past tariff policy of the United States of treating all nations alike, or would you favor Federal legislation providing that lowered duties be given only to the country with which the trade agreement is made? What are the advantages or disadvantages of the two methods?

4. As a consumer are you in favor of a protective tariff on the goods you buy? Why? As a producer of farm products are you in favor of a protective tariff on surplus agricultural products? Why? Is there such a tariff now?

USEFUL REFERENCE MATERIAL

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS [annual]. Issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

The 1939 volume may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., for 60 cents.

PLANNING FOR A PERMANENT AGRICULTURE, INCLUDING A SUMMARY OF THE PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE THAT INFLUENCE THE USE OF THE LAND. United States Department of Agriculture. Miscellaneous Publication 351. 71 pp. Washington, D. C., 1939. Free.

THE COOPERATIVE PRIMER, by R. A. Power. 102 pp. Viroqua, Wisconsin, R. A. Power, 1939. 50 cents.

CO-OPS IN AGRICULTURE, by French M. Hyre. United States Farm Credit Administration Circular C-111. 22 pp. Washington, D. C., 1939. Free.

YOUR COMMUNITY; ITS PROVISION FOR HEALTH, EDUCATION, SAFETY, AND WELFARE, by Joanna C. Colcord. 249 pp. New York, Russell Sage Foundation, 1939. 85 cents.

COUNTY PLANNING SERIES [leaflets]. Washington, D. C., United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, 1940. Free.

These leaflets deal with various aspects of county land use planning organization, scope, membership of committees, communities, and neighborhoods in land use planning, etc.

BARRIERS TO INTERNAL TRADE IN FARM PRODUCTS. A special report, by George R. Taylor, Edgar L. Burtis, and Frederick V. Waugh. 104 pp. Washington, D. C., United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, March 1939. Free.

STATE CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES, by Clifford J. Hynning. 116 pp. Washington, D. C., United States National Resources Committee, 1939. Free.

HANDBOOK FOR DISCUSSION LEADERS. AMERICA'S PROBLEMS AS AFFECTED BY INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. Edited by Ursula P. Hubbard. 112 pp. New York, Division of Intercourse and Education, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, April 1940. 10 cents.

In nine sections: 1. This shrinking world: What does it mean to America? by Eugene Staley; 2. Towards an understanding of

foreign trade, by Oscar B. Jesness; 3. The farmer's stake in a new world order, by Donald C. Blaisdell; 4. Our Nation's health: an international problem, by Frank G. Boudreau; 5. Social and economic justice (Part I. Within the United States, by Smith Simpson; Part II. The International Labor Organization, by John G. Winant; Part III. The cooperative movement, by Anders Hedberg); 6. The world American youth face, by Dudley Lee Harley; 7. The organization of peace, by James T. Shotwell and others; 8. Problems of the western world, by Frederic W. Ganzert; 9. Can we the people solve our problems, by Drummond Jones.

Reprints of sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 9 may be obtained at 5 cents each.

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